

Going Green in Virginia: “Growing Green” in the City of Falls Church



May 11, 2009



Presentation Overview

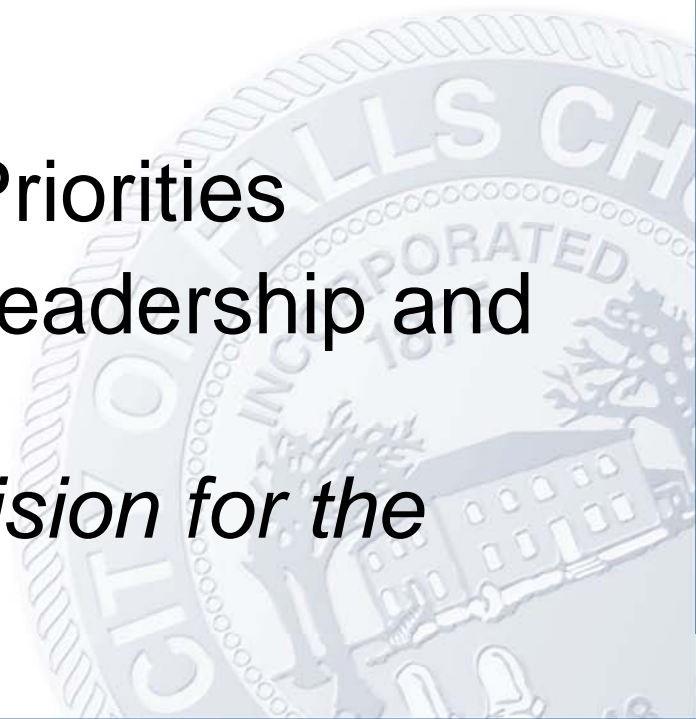
- Case study of how a small community can “Grow Green”
- Incremental Process of ~10 years
 - Real momentum in last 3-5 years
- Numerous programs, policies, personnel to achieve the Green Vision



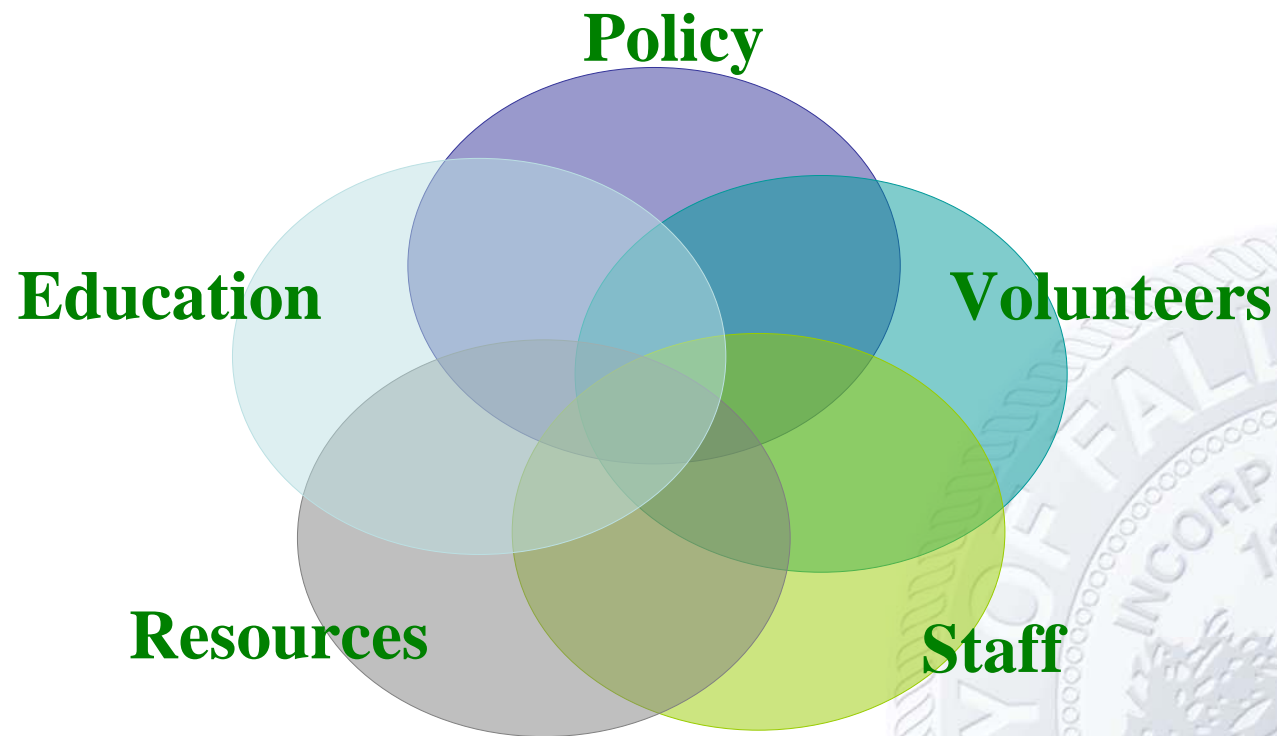
How Did We Get Here?

Growing Green Through:

- Grassroots efforts – community leaders
- Residents
- Staff initiatives
- Council Leadership and Priorities
- Board and Commission Leadership and Priorities
- *Result = Formal Green Vision for the City*



Levels of Involvement



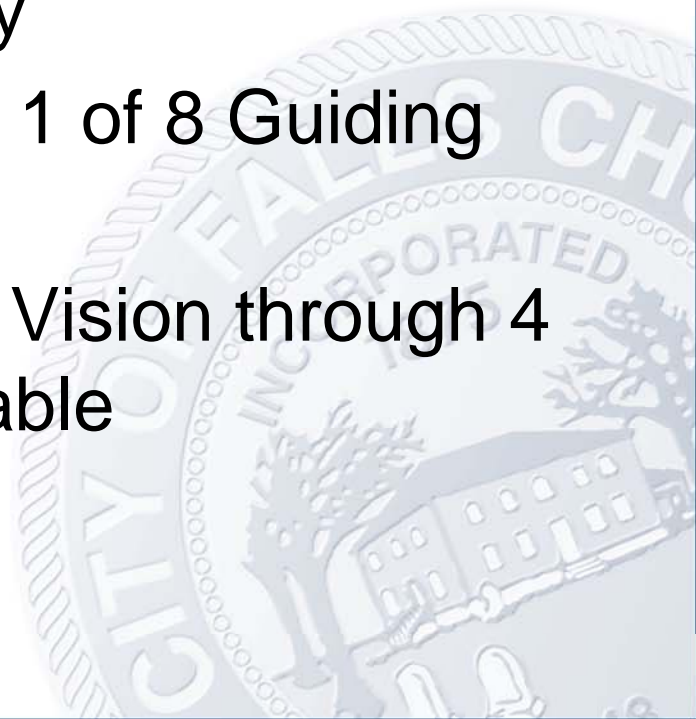
Policy - Comprehensive Plan

- City's official policy document
- Provides framework for residents, staff, and decision makers
- Establishes strategies for achieving the City's vision
- Natural Resources and Environment Chapter includes 7 goals and numerous strategies to support the Chapter Vision:

“The City of Falls Church will continue to be committed to the protection, preservation, and restoration of its natural environment”

Policy – Council Vision

- City Council's 2007 Vision and Strategic Plan include focus on sustainability
 - Environmental Harmony is 1 of 8 Guiding Principles in Vision
 - Strategic Plan implements Vision through 4 goals that support sustainable development



Policy – Council Vision

“The people of Falls Church believe protecting, guiding, and investing in their environment is one of their highest callings...Our commitment to parks, open space, and clean waterways has been a hallmark of local government for decades...”



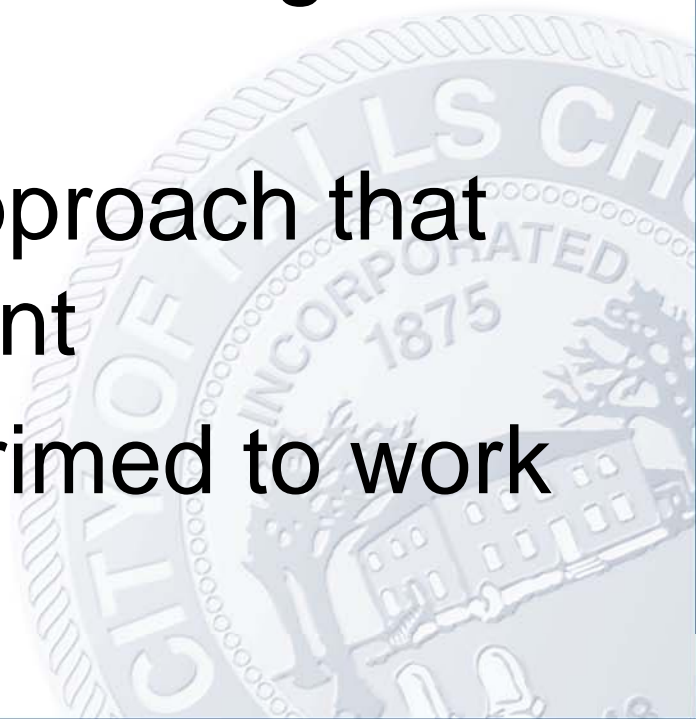
Policy

- City Ordinances contribute to creating environmentally sustainable development
 - Water quality
 - Stormwater quantity
 - Tree preservation
 - Solid waste
- Green Fleet Policy
- Recycling / Purchasing Policy
- Open Space Policy
- Solid Waste Management Plan

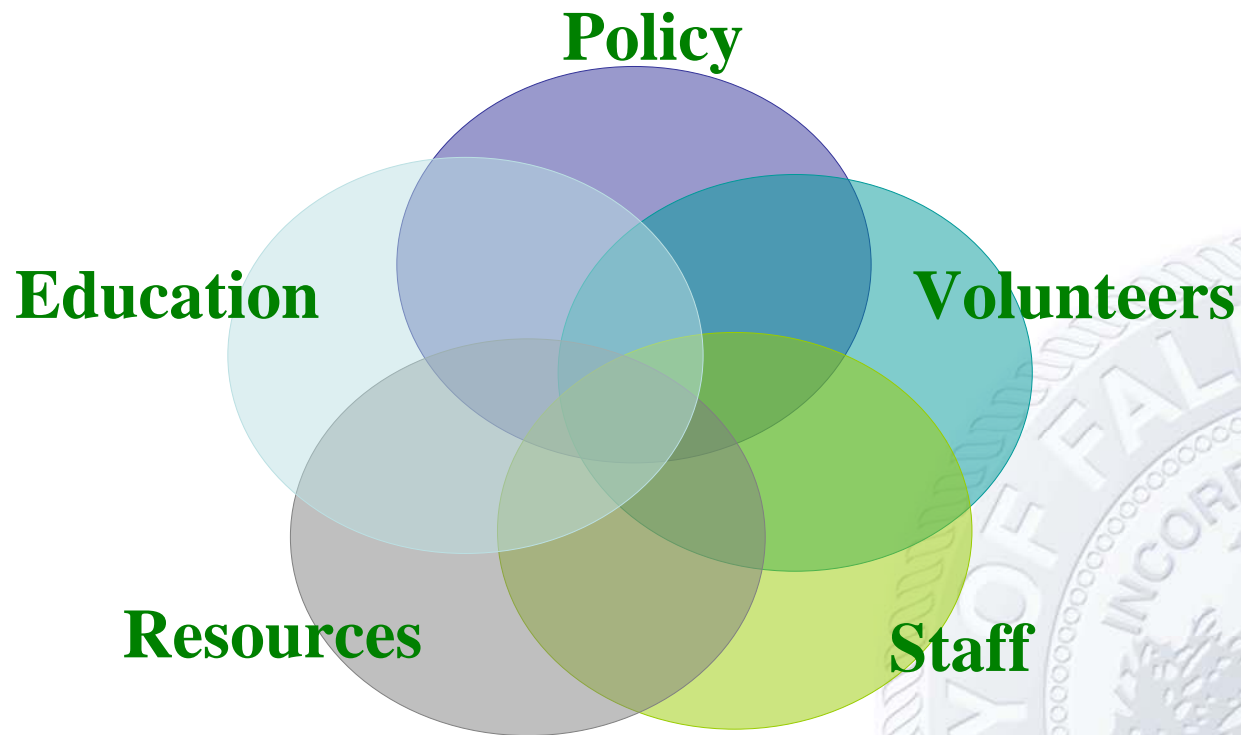


Policy

- One of the main contributors to the City's success in implementing sustainable practices
- Led to an integrated approach that affects every department
- Staff and community primed to work within this framework

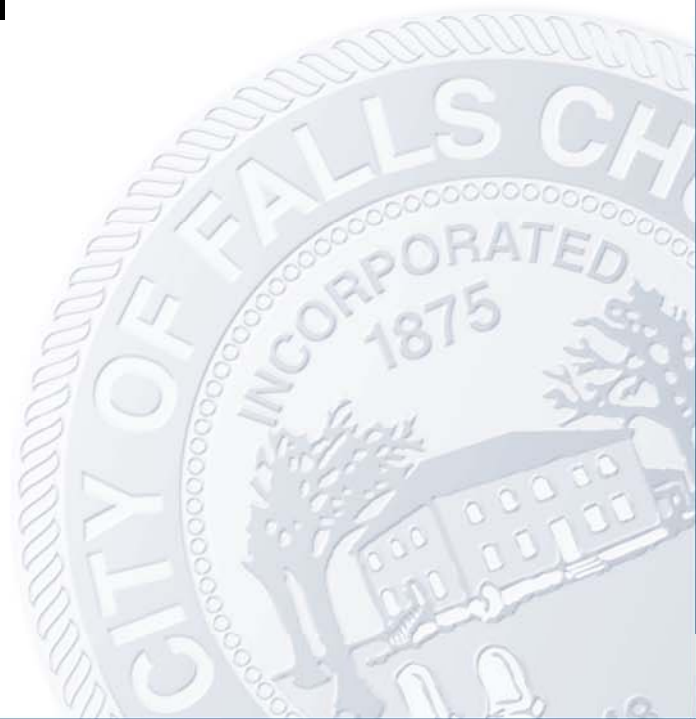


Levels of Involvement



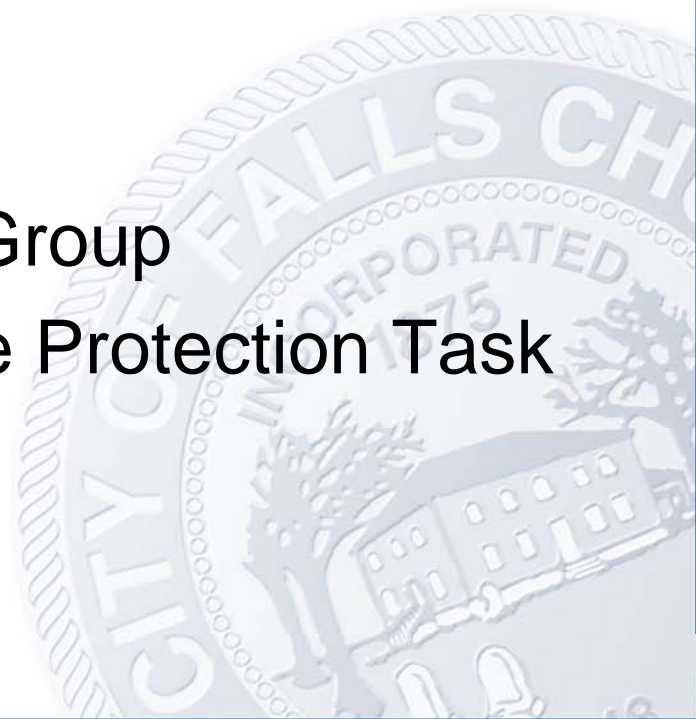
Volunteers

- Council-Appointed Advisory Boards
 - Planning Commission
 - Environmental Services Council
 - Tree Commission
- Other Volunteers
 - Civic Groups
 - Schools
 - Businesses
 - Residents



Environmental Services Council

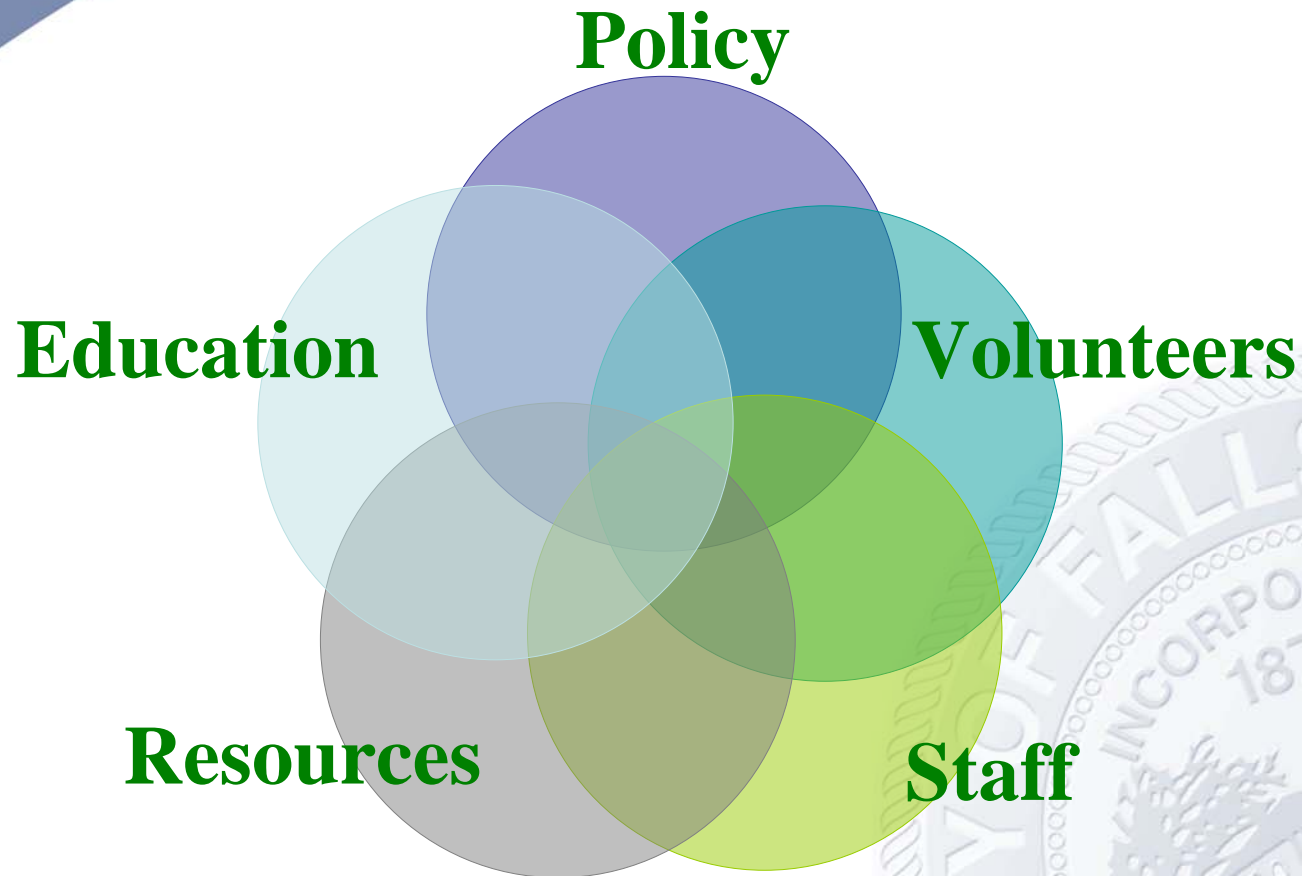
- Four task groups:
 - Education Task Group
 - Cleanup Task Group
 - Habitat Restoration Task Group
 - Energy Efficiency / Climate Protection Task Group





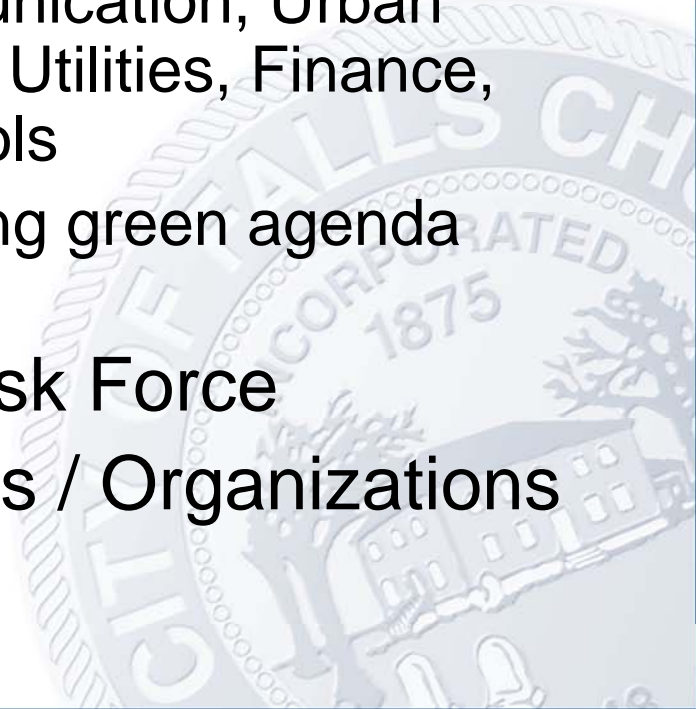


Levels of Involvement



Staff

- Liaisons to Boards and Commissions
- Interdisciplinary “Green Team”
 - Includes Planning, Engineering, Building Official, Recreation and Parks, Communication, Urban Forestry, Public Works, Public Utilities, Finance, Assistant City Manager, Schools
 - Significant catalyst for furthering green agenda within City departments
- Employee Environmental Task Force
- Participate in Regional Efforts / Organizations



PLEASE JOIN THE EMPLOYEE ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE
ON A

GREEN ROOF TOUR



THEY'RE NOT JUST FOR HOBBITS ANYMORE!

Come explore a "green roof" and learn about
how it was constructed and the benefits it
provides to our environment.

Wednesday, October 29th, 2008

1PM - 2PM

SPRINKLE OR SHINE

**Meet in front of the "Read Building" 402 W. Broad St
(Vantage Fitness building)**

Sponsored by the
Employee Environmental Task Force
Please email jspence@fallschurchva.gov or
call 703-248-5183 to confirm attendance



CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

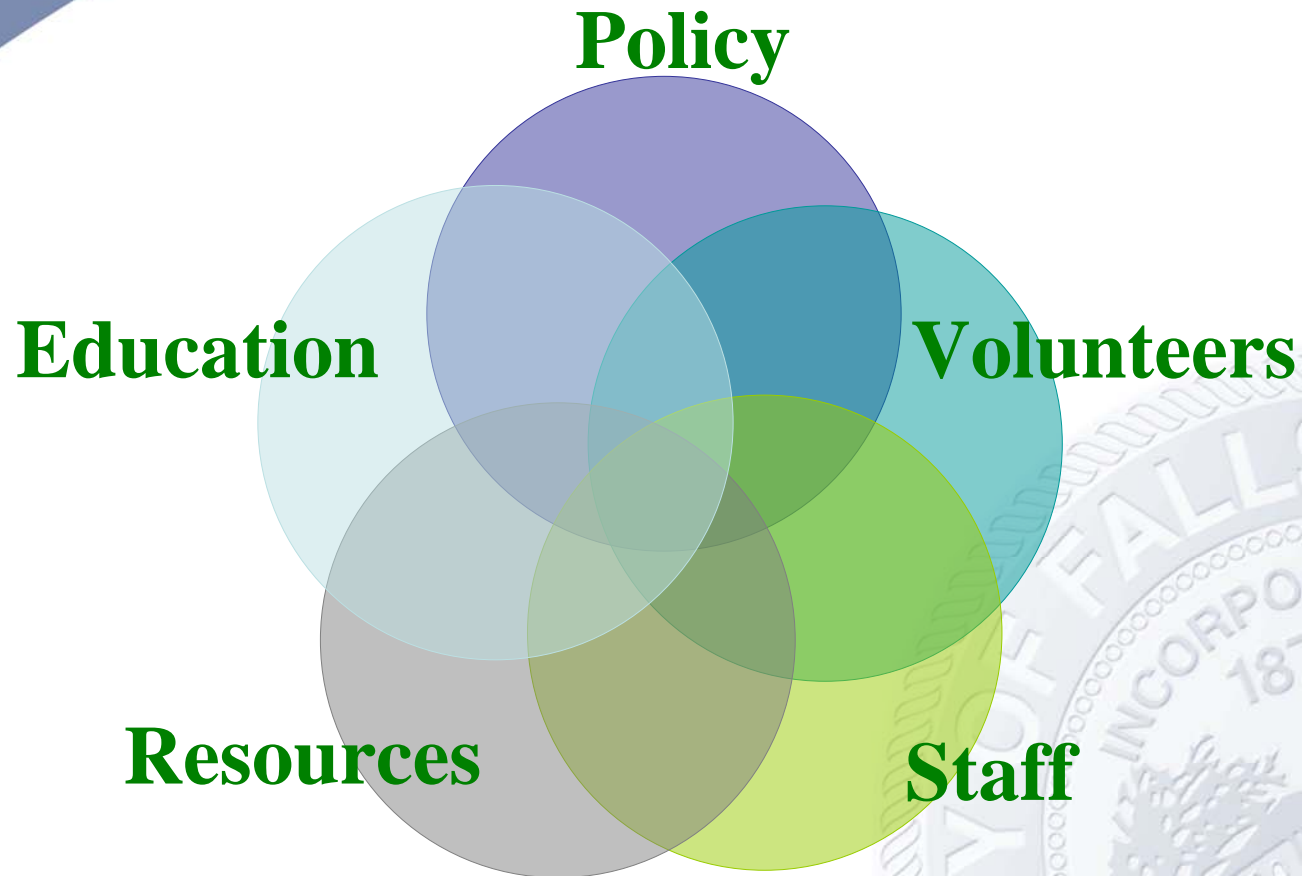
The City of Falls Church is committed to the letter and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request a reasonable accommodation for any type of disability, call 703-248-5183 (TTY 711).



Printed on Recycled Paper

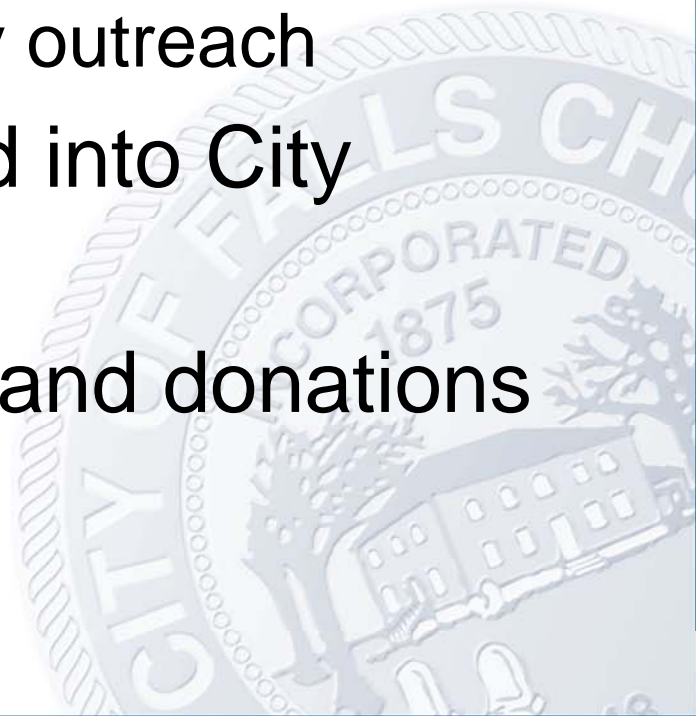
Development Services • Urban Forestry Division • 300 Park Avenue • Falls Church VA 22046

Levels of Involvement

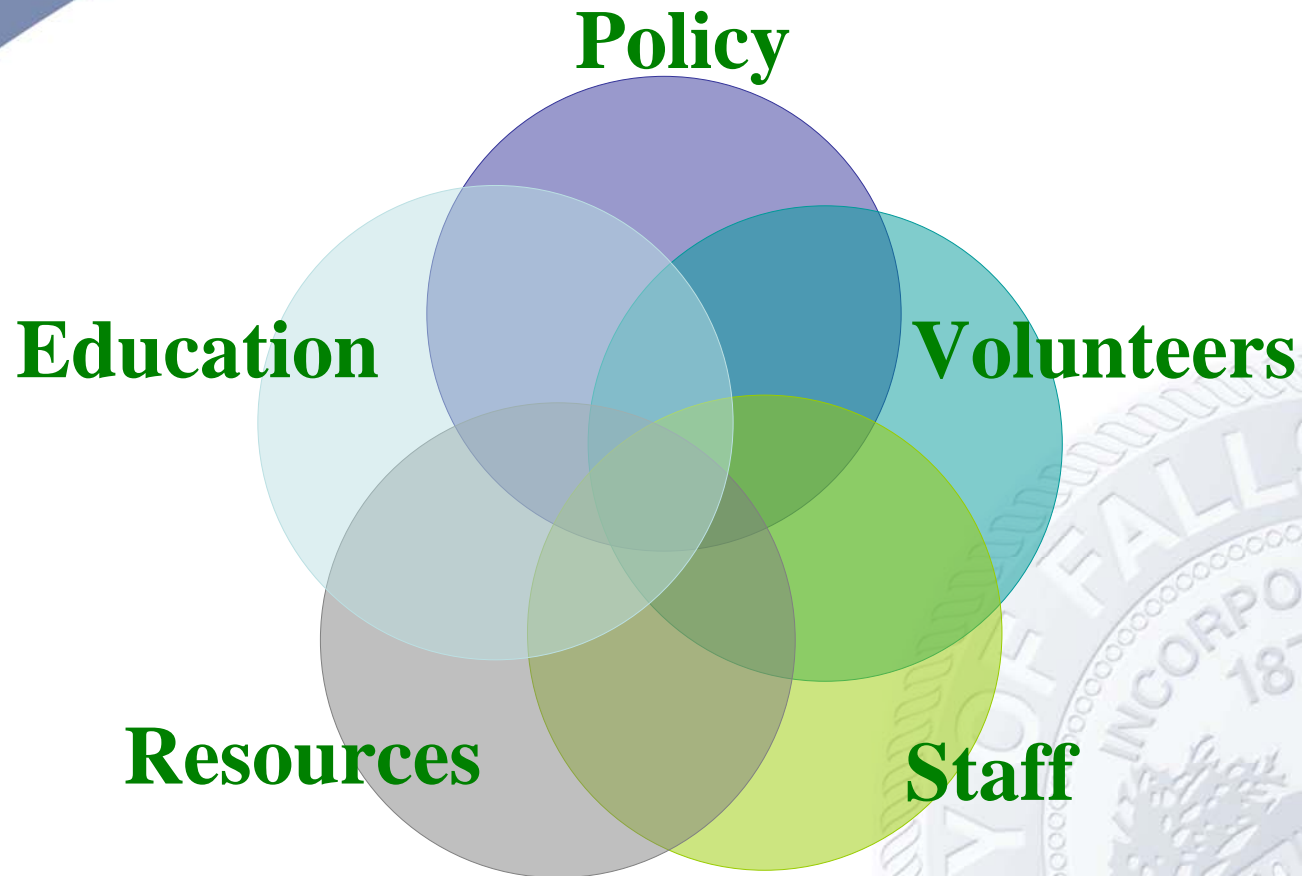


Resources

- One FTE
 - Environmental Program Specialist – position oversees recycling, watershed education and community outreach
- Program costs integrated into City budget and CIP
- Limited non-local grants and donations
- Resource limitations

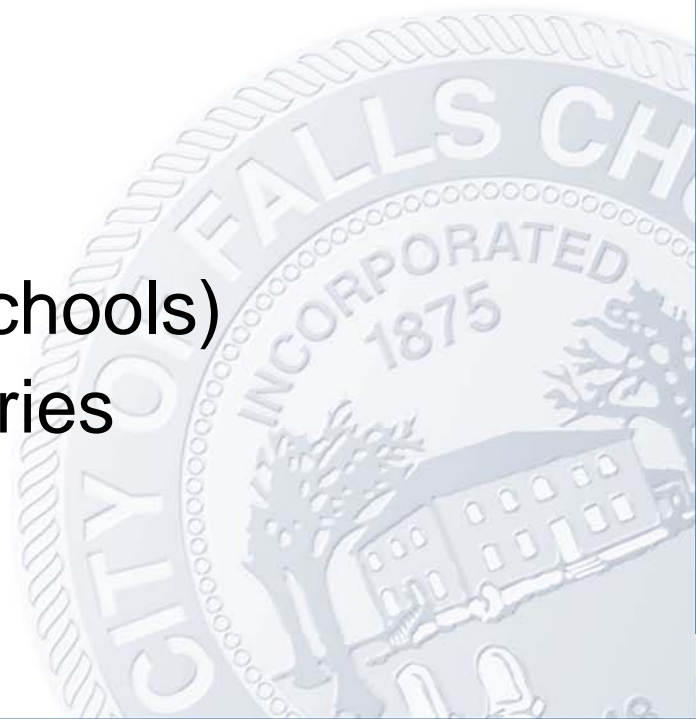


Levels of Involvement



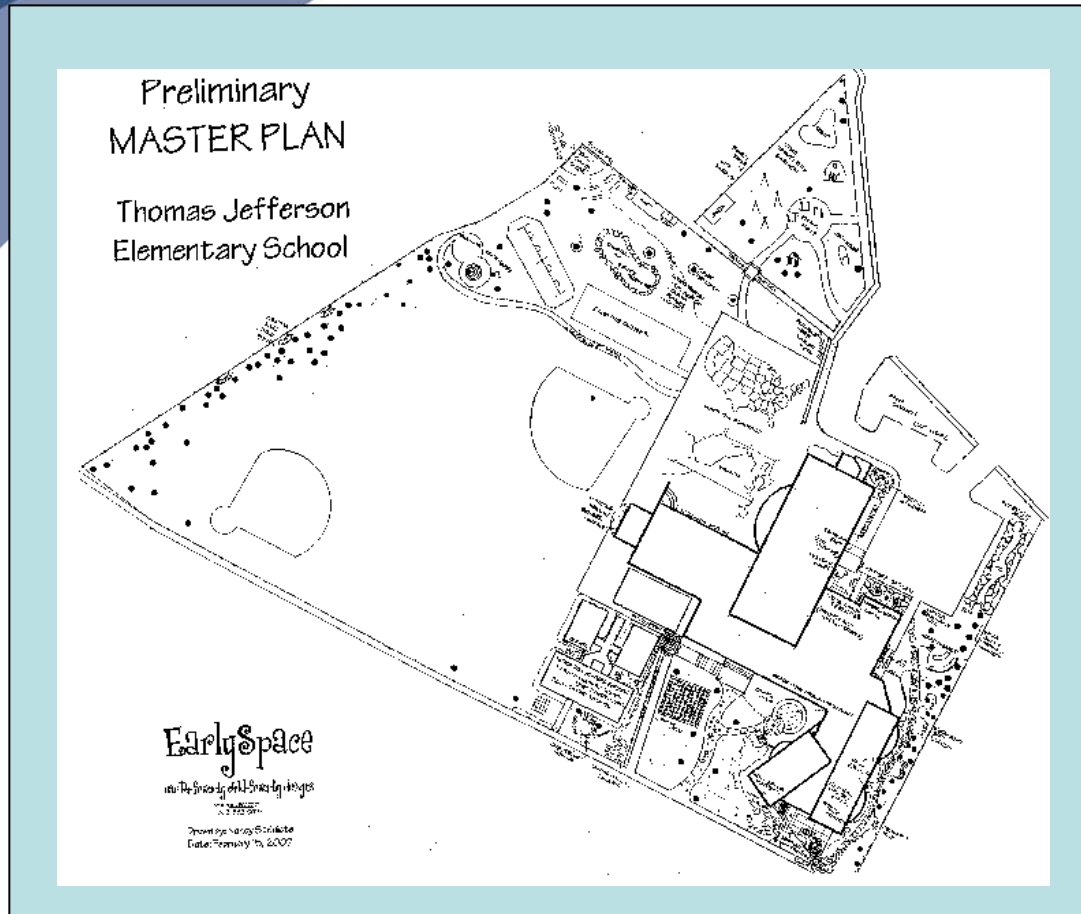
Education

- Work with school children and community to teach environmental education
 - Operation EarthWatch
 - Ecology Club
 - Outdoor Classroom (at 2 schools)
 - Growing Green Lecture Series
 - Publications





Outdoor Classroom



Master Plan for two City schools includes:

- Rain gardens
- Cisterns
- Reduction of impervious areas
- Nature walk
- Butterfly gardens

Winter/Spring 2009 Growing Green Lecture Series
www.fallschurchva.gov

Presented by:
Sandra Tarpinian

Saturday, April 18, 2009
City of Falls Church Community Center
223 Little Falls Street, Falls Church 22046
10 - 11:30 am

CALL 703-248-5077 TO REGISTER FOR THIS CLASS
Activity # 251017-A

Lecture:

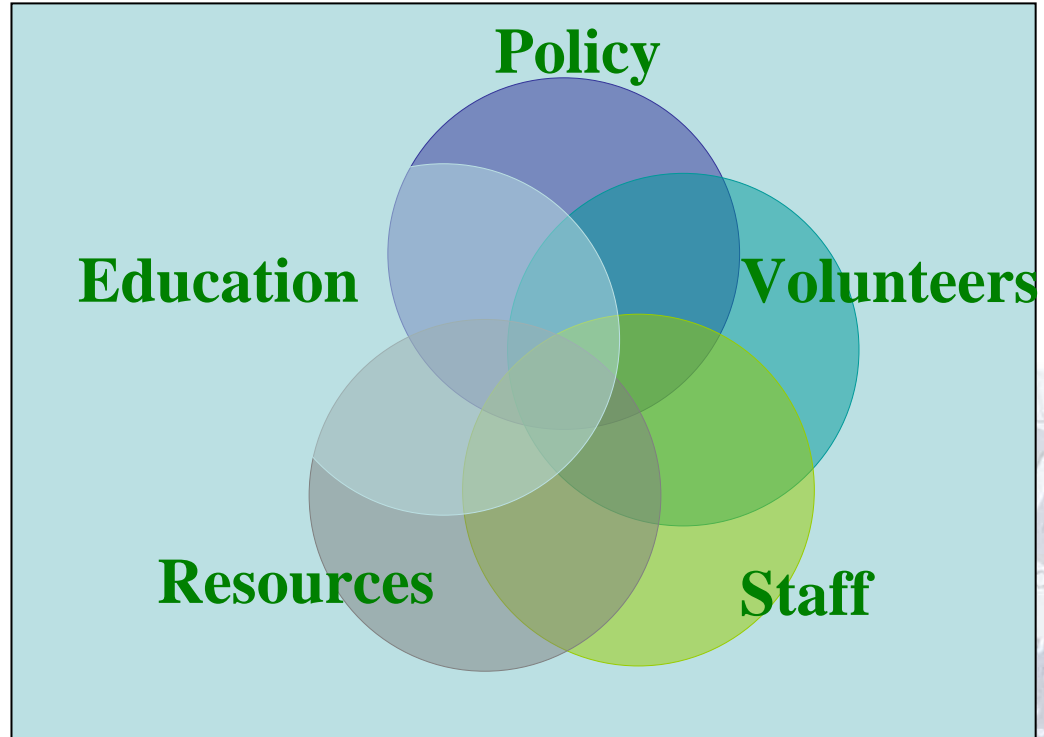
Composting for Beginners



Learn how to turn leaves and yard trimmings into rich organic compost. Topics include: hands-on composting demonstration, making compost tea, proper food waste composting and vermicomposting. Participants will take home a free portable compost bin.

Levels of Involvement

- Policy
- Volunteers
- Staff
- Resources
- Education



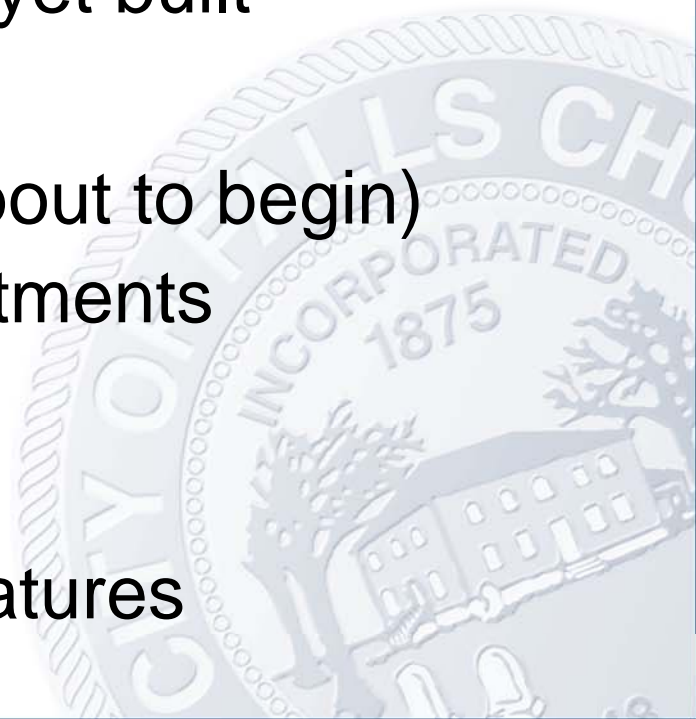
The integration of these efforts has produced positive and significant environmental results in the City.

Planning Initiatives

- Comprehensive Plan
- Motivated Council, Planning Commission, Staff, Advisory Committees, Citizens
- Special Exception Criteria for Mixed Use projects requires the utilization of LEED criteria in the design of the project
- Zoning Code Rewrite

Planning Initiatives

- In past 5 years, 5 new Mixed Use projects built in the City,
 - 2 others approved but not yet built
- Result is:
 - 2 Built Green Roofs (+1 about to begin)
 - LEED Certification Commitments
 - Stormwater BMPs
 - Bioretention Areas
 - Green Interior Building Features



Spectrum





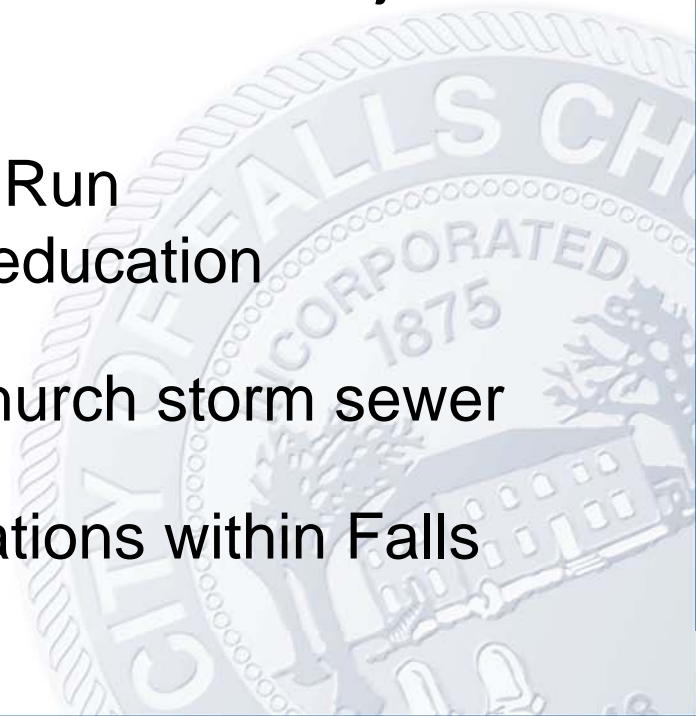
Read Building





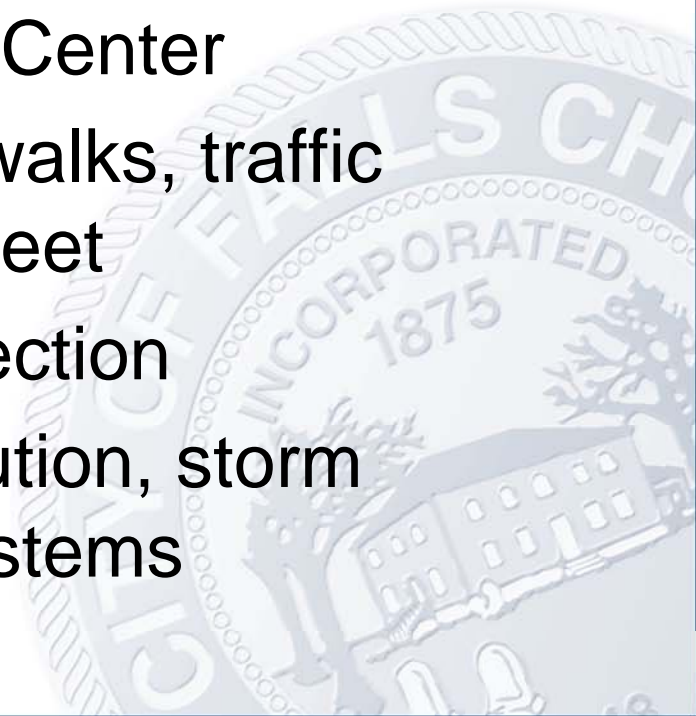
North Washington Streetscape

- Streetscape Design for major commercial corridor in the City
- Using “Low-Impact Development” principles to filter and reduce stormwater runoff from the street and adjacent properties.
- Enhance pedestrian amenities
- Improve water quality in Four-Mile Run
- Create interpretive environmental education opportunities
- Reduce the burden on the Falls Church storm sewer system
- Invite connectivity between destinations within Falls Church



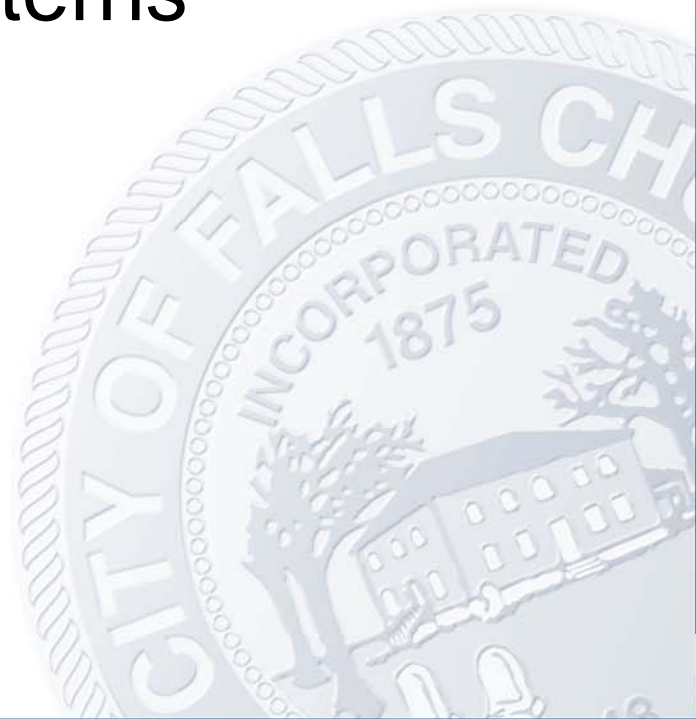
Municipal Facilities Initiatives: Maintenance Yard

- Houses staff, facilities and equipment for Public Works, Public Utilities, Parks, Urban Forestry, Drop Off Recycling Center
- Maintenance of streets, sidewalks, traffic lights/signals, City facilities, fleet
- Refuse, leaf, yard waste collection
- Maintenance of water distribution, storm water, and sanitary sewer systems



Municipal Facilities Initiatives: Maintenance Yard

- Rainwater Harvesting/Cisterns
- Green Fleet/Fuel
- Tandem Street Sweeping
- Stream Protection





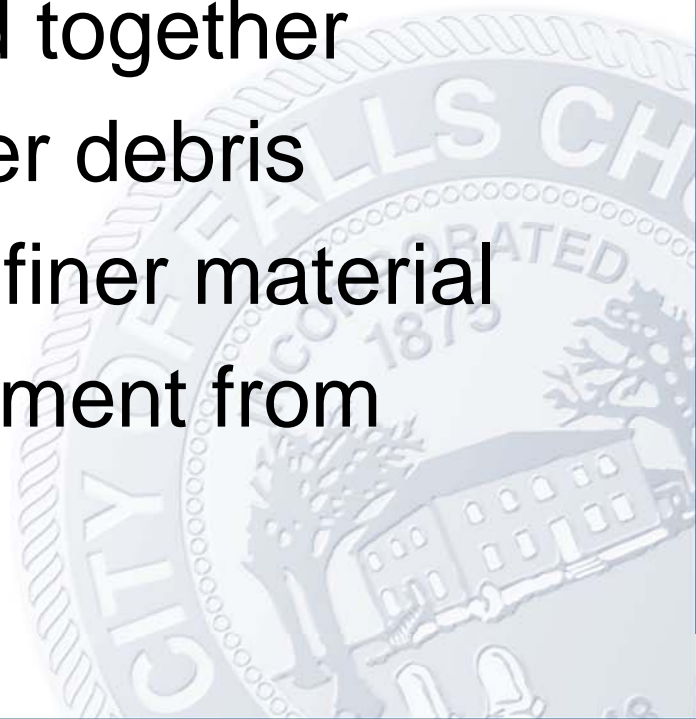


Green Fleet and Fuels

- 6 light duty hybrid vehicles (30% of fleet) purchased to date using local and grant funds
- Grant funds pending to purchase additional 6 vehicles
- B20 biodiesel used for heavy duty vehicles, including school buses, fire trucks, and refuse trucks

Street Sweeping

- Tandem Sweeping – uses two separate sweeper machines routed together
- First sweeper pulls heavier debris
- Second sweeper collects finer material
- Prevents 600 tons of sediment from entering streams



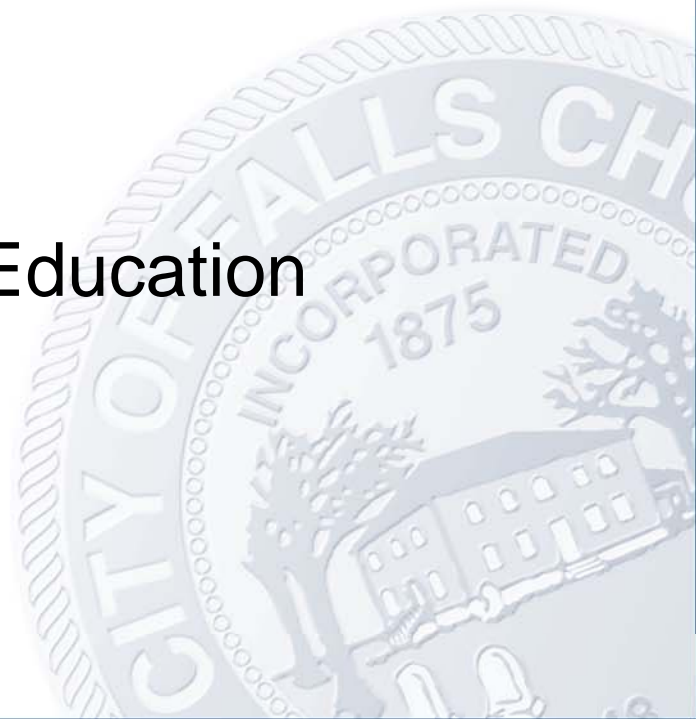
Stream Protection

- Inlet Protection – Installed at storm drain inlets to prevent sediment from entering storm water system
- Dechlorinization Equipment - Used during water main repairs to prevent chlorinated water from entering streams



Municipal Facilities Initiatives: Maintenance Yard

- Energy Efficiencies
- LED Traffic Signals
- Staff Water Quality Training/Education
- Open House
- Environmental Events





Environmental Events

- Recycling Extravaganza
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection
- Rain Barrel Workshops





04/28/2007



Municipal Facilities Initiatives: City Hall

- Rain Garden
- Grass Pavers
- Signage
- Stormceptor
- Energy Audit
- Retrofits
- Recycling





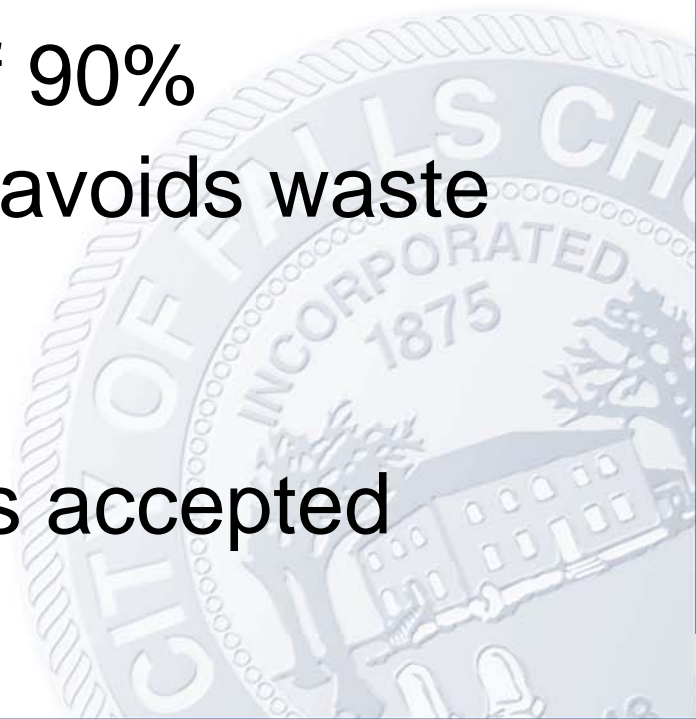
Other Environmental Initiatives

- Residential Curbside Recycling
- Drop Off Recycling Center
- Leaf Collection/Mulch Program
- Neighborhood Tree Program
- Wildlife Habitat
- Storm Drain Marking
- Green Home Award Program
- DCR Water Quality Grant



Recycling

- One of highest waste diversion rates in Virginia and nation (53%)
- Residential set out rate of 90%
- Generates revenues and avoids waste disposal costs
- Single stream collection
- Broader array of materials accepted
- Volunteer block captains



Municipal Recycling



RECYCLING IS EASIER THAN EVER!

Place all "Recycling YES" items into the same recycling bin. The advanced equipment at the recycling facility will properly separate materials. Follow the chart below to recycle the right way! Call 703-248-5176 (TTY 711) for more information.

Recycling YES



PLACE **ALL** ITEMS IN THE SAME BIN (NO SEPARATION NECESSARY). Rinse out food packaging.



Plastic bottles and jugs #1-7 and lids



Wide-mouth plastic containers



Metal food and beverage containers



Aerosol cans



Glass bottles and jars



Rigid plastics



Bagged plastic film



Gable-top milk and juice cartons



Newspapers and all inserts



Phone books



Mixed paper



Cardboard boxes (unflattened)



Paperboard



All books



Aluminum foil and trays



Recycling NO



Styrofoam packaging



Plastic food trays and cups



Foam take-out containers



"Clam-shell" take-out containers



Paper plates and napkins



Ceramics



Light bulbs



Pots and pans



Glass other than bottles and jars

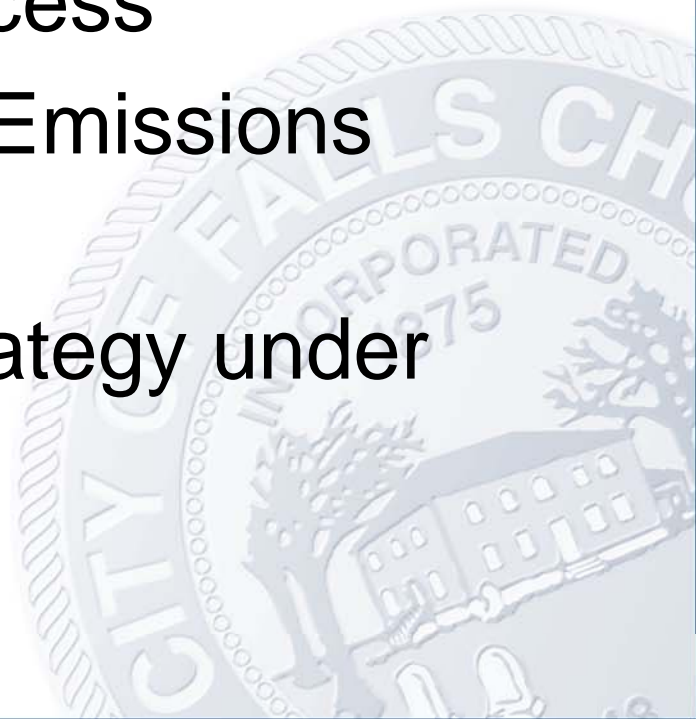


Batteries



Climate Protection Initiative

- August 2008 City Council Resolution
- ICLEI Five Milestone Process
- Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory underway
- Community education strategy under development



VML Green Government Challenge

- 3d Place Winner – Small Cities
- “Certified Green Government”
- Participation helps to identify best practices to reduce GHG emissions
- Participation catalogues all relevant green programs and initiatives
- Generates interest, enthusiasm among employees at all levels

Certified Green Government



